

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
 - a first non-volatile data storage device, configured as one or more storage regions, to store one or more bytes of CMOS BIOS~~memory~~ data, wherein the device lacks hardware security such that some of the CMOS BIOS~~memory~~ data storage regions are modifiable by an application program on the system;
 - another, second non-volatile data storage device to store a mirror image of the CMOS BIOS~~memory~~ data in a location that cannot be modified without system authorization;
 - a program store to store one or more processor-readable instructions to ascertain the validity of the CMOS BIOS~~memory~~ data stored in the first non-volatile storage device and ~~if when~~ invalid to replace the CMOS BIOS~~memory~~ data in the first non-volatile storage device with the stored mirror image of the data; and
 - a processing unit coupled to the first and second non-volatile data storage devices and program store, to read and process the one or more instructions in the program store.
2. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the processing unit is to process the instructions in the program store as part of a start-up procedure.
3. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the program store is inside said second non-volatile data storage device.
4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1 wherein the processor-readable instructions in the program store ascertain the validity of the data stored in the first non-volatile storage device on a region by region basis.
5. (Canceled).
6. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 4 wherein system authorization includes
 - employing a system interface to perform modifications to the data stored in said second non-volatile data storage device.

7. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein ascertaining the validity of the CMOS BIOS~~memory~~ data stored in the first non-volatile storage device includes determining if the current data in the first non-volatile storage device is different than the stored image of the data.
8. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein ascertaining the validity of the CMOS BIOS~~memory~~ data stored in the first non-volatile storage device includes determining if an integrity metric corresponding to the current data in the first non-volatile storage device is different than the same integrity metric corresponding to the stored image of the data.
9. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 further comprising:
generating a copy ~~the of~~ current data in the first non-volatile storage device ~~if when~~ an authorized application modifies the current data; and
storing the copy as a valid image of the current data.
10. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
reading ~~current~~ CMOS BIOS~~memory~~ content stored in a first non-volatile storage device of a system, wherein the first device lacks hardware security such that the CMOS BIOS~~memory~~ content is modifiable by an application program in the system;
reading from a valid image of the CMOS BIOS~~memory~~ content, that is stored in a further, second non-volatile storage device;
determining ~~if when~~ the ~~current~~ CMOS memory content in the first device has been modified without authorization; and
replacing the ~~stored current~~ CMOS memory content with said stored valid image ~~of the content if when~~ the ~~current~~ CMOS memory content is determined to have been modified without authorization.
11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein the determining comprises:
comparing the ~~read~~ valid image to the ~~current~~ CMOS memory content to determine ~~if when~~ the ~~current~~ CMOS memory content has been modified.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein determining if when the current CMOS memory content has been modified without authorization includes comparing a previously stored checksum, corresponding to the valid image of the CMOS memory content, and a checksum corresponding to the current CMOS memory content.
13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein determining if when the current CMOS memory content has been modified without authorization includes comparing a previously stored cyclic redundancy check value, corresponding to the valid image of the CMOS memory content, and a cyclic redundancy check value corresponding to the current CMOS memory-content.
14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein determining if when the current CMOS memory-content has been modified without authorization includes comparing a previously stored bit mask, corresponding to the valid image of the CMOS memory content, and a bit mask corresponding to the current CMOS memory content.
15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 further comprising: storing a valid image of the current CMOS memory content for later use.
16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein reading the current CMOS memory content from the first non-volatile storage device is part of a start-up procedure of the system.
17. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
arranging a first non-volatile storage device of a computer system into one or more storage regions to store CMOS BIOS-data, wherein the device lacks hardware security such that some of the CMOS BIOS-regions are modifiable by an application program in the system;
generating an integrity metric corresponding to valid CMOS BIOS-content stored in a first region of the first non-volatile storage device; and
storing the integrity metric in another, second non-volatile storage device of the computer system to later determine if when the content in the first region has been modified without authorization.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 further comprising:
comparing a previously stored integrity metric, corresponding to an earlier
version of the content stored in the first region, to a newly calculated integrity metric
corresponding to the current content stored in the first region to determine ~~if-when~~
an unauthorized modification has occurred.
19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 17 further comprising:
replacing the content of the first region with an earlier version of the content
therein ~~if-when~~ it is determined that there was an unauthorized modification.

Claims 20-30 (Canceled).